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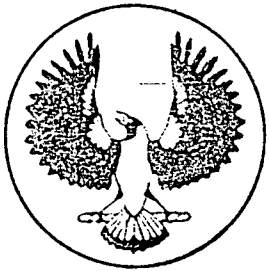
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Title:

Statement: State Government buys Her Majesty's Theatre

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date...November...9,...1976....

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
227 2688

STATE GOVERNMENT BUYS HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

The State Government has bought Her Majesty's Theatre for use by the State Opera of South Australia and community theatre and performing arts groups.

Announcing the decision today, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said the Government had been determined that the theatre be saved.

"We have negotiated with J.C. Williamson's Theatres for some months and they have accepted our offer of \$440,000 for the land, buildings, fittings and equipment", the Premier said.

"Her Majesty's is a vital part of Adelaide's life, and the Government's purchase is a very significant investment for the future development of the arts in South Australia.

"It is essential for Adelaide that Her Majesty's be kept as a workable live theatre and that community performing arts groups have access to its facilities.

"It is the only theatre of its size in Adelaide, having a seating capacity of around 1,200 people, midway between the Festival Theatre and the Playhouse. As well, it is extremely adaptable.

"Her Majesty's can be used for a very wide range of performances from grand opera through to one man shows. It will be a lively complement to the Festival Centre complex."

Mr. Dunstan said Her Majesty's would be the permanent home for the State Opera of South Australia and would house both the company's artistic and administrative sections.

"It is essential that the State Opera, which has achieved world recognition and acclaim in less than four years, should have a permanent home", Mr. Dunstan said.

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"Only with guaranteed facilities can the company further develop artistically and professionally to give people throughout the State, not only in Adelaide, even higher standard performances."

Mr. Dunstan said the theatre had been in fairly constant use until shortly after the Festival of Arts earlier this year.

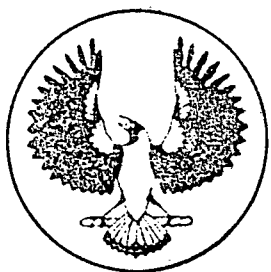
"State Opera has already used Her Majesty's very successfully for two of its most outstanding productions - Cosi Fan Tutte and La Boheme.

"Some improvements will have to be made in backstage technical facilities and in the foyer areas, but the auditorium is in good condition.

"The Government wants to ensure that the theatre is used as much as possible, and we will encourage community groups to take advantage of its facilities.

"My Department will be discussing with the Festival Centre Trust any assistance the Trust may be able to provide in technical and front-of-house staff.

"Her Majesty's is part of Adelaide's tremendous artistic resources and the Government wants them to be used by the whole community".



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